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S E C R E T DUBLIN 001084

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [UNGA](#)

SUBJECT: IRELAND: NO PLANS TO MEET SYRIANS AT UN

REF: SECSTATE 159137

Classified By: POL/ECON Chief Mary Daly for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (S) Paul Gunning, First Secretary for Middle East issues, said that as of September 2, FM Ahern had received no request from the Syrians for a bilateral meeting at the UNGA. FM Ahern plans to keep bilateral meetings to a minimum in order to be available to the Secretary General in his capacity of one of the the SYG's special envoys for UN reform. Gunning said Ireland shares U.S. concern about Syrian behaviour. However, it has no representation in Damascus, and thus usually relies on the EU for communication with Syria.
KENNY